

Amendments to Claims Pursuant 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)

Applicants respectfully request amendment of Claims 1-6, 23-28, and 31, as provided below, and cancellation of Claims 30 and 32 without prejudice to the subject matter recited in such claims. In addition, Applicants respectfully request the addition of new Claims 33-34 to the present application, as provided below.

1. (Currently amended) A reinforcement ~~assembly~~ rod for optical cables comprising:
  - a compact fiber reinforced rod comprising:
    - a plurality of elongated fiber members encased in a matrix of a UV cured vinyl ester resin material; and,
    - an outer topcoat layer substantially surrounding said matrix, said outer topcoat layer comprised of at least a non-radiation-curable, thermoplastic hot melt polybutylene copolymer resin to impart specific bonding characteristics to said rod; and
    - ~~an upjacket substantially surrounding said compact fiber reinforced rod.~~
2. (Currently amended) The reinforcement ~~assembly~~ rod of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members comprises an E glass fiber member.
3. (Currently amended) The reinforcement ~~assembly~~ rod of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members comprises an S glass fiber member.
4. (Currently amended) The reinforcement ~~assembly~~ rod of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members are selected from the group consisting of E glass fiber members, an S glass fiber members, and combinations thereof.
5. (Currently amended) The reinforcement ~~assembly~~ rod of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members are selected from the group consisting of E glass fiber members, S glass fiber members, high strength synthetic strands of poly(p-phenylene-2,6-benzobisoxazole) fiber members, and combinations thereof.

6. (Currently amended) The reinforcement ~~assembly~~ rod of claim 1, wherein said UV cured vinyl ester resin material is selected from the group consisting of novolac vinyl ester and 1, 6 hexane diol diacrylate copolymer material (VINCH 500), and novolac vinyl ester and dipropylene glycol diacrylate copolymer material (17-41B).

7-22. Canceled

23. (Currently amended) The reinforcement ~~assembly~~ rod of claim 1, wherein said plurality of fibers comprises:

- a plurality of E glass roving fibers; and
- a plurality of S glass roving fibers.

24. (Currently amended) The reinforcement ~~assembly~~ rod of claim 23, wherein said plurality of fibers further comprises a plurality of high strength synthetic strand members.

25. (Currently amended) The reinforcement ~~assembly~~ rod of claim 23, wherein said plurality of fibers further comprises a plurality of high strength aramid strands.

26. (Currently amended) The reinforcement ~~assembly~~ rod of claim 24, wherein said plurality of fibers further comprises a plurality of polyphenylene terephthalate strand members.

27. (Currently amended) The reinforcement ~~assembly~~ rod of claim 1, wherein said plurality of fibers comprises:

- a plurality of E glass roving fibers;
- a plurality of S glass roving fibers; and
- a plurality of high strength aramid strands.

28. (Currently amended) The reinforcement assembly rod of claim 1, wherein said plurality of fibers comprises:

- a plurality of E glass roving fibers;
- a plurality of S glass roving fibers; and
- a plurality of high strength polyphenylene terephthalate strands.

29-30. Canceled.

31. (Currently amended) The reinforcement assembly rod of claim 1, wherein said outer topcoat layer includes a polybutylene terephthalate and polyether glycol copolymer topcoat layer.

32. Canceled.

33. (New) The reinforcement rod of claim 1, further comprising an upjacket substantially surrounding said compact fiber reinforced rod.

34. (New) A reinforcement rod for optical cables comprising:

a compact fiber reinforced rod comprising:

a plurality of elongated fiber members encased in a matrix of a UV cured vinyl ester resin material; and

an outer topcoat layer substantially surrounding said matrix, said outer topcoat layer comprised of at least a non-radiation-curable, thermoplastic hot melt ethylene acrylic acid copolymer resin to impart specific bonding characteristics to said rod.